



Church of Saint Ann

289 Arch Road * Avon, Connecticut * 06001

860-673-9858

Rev. John W. McHugh, Ph.D., Pastor

www.stannavon.org

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Rev. Daniel J. Sullivan

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BAPTISMS:

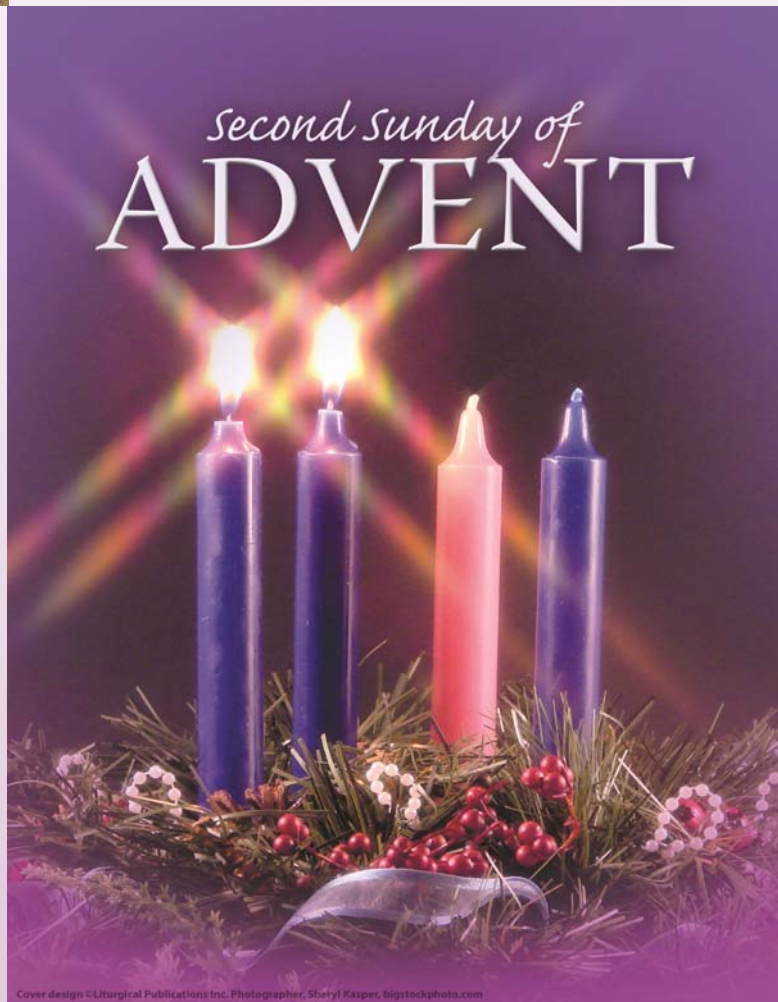
Registered parishioners call the Parish Office

MARRIAGES

Please set the date with the priest or deacon at least six months prior to the wedding. Weddings cannot be scheduled after the Saturday evening Mass or on Sundays.

BULLETIN DEADLINE & INSERTS

Please submit any bulletin announcements to the Parish Office by 2pm on the Monday prior to the weekend you would like it published. Also, please contact the office to obtain permission to insert fliers into the weekly bulletin.



MASS SCHEDULE:

Monday - Friday:

9:00 am

Sunday Vigil (Saturday):

4:00 pm

Sunday:

7:30, 9:30 and 11:00am

First Friday:

9:00 am

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday: after 4pm Mass

First Friday: Before 9:00 AM Mass

Other times by appointment

DEVOTIONS:

Eucharistic Adoration:

Mondays 9:30-10:30am

Rosary: 8:30 am, daily

MMP Cenacle: Mondays at 7:15pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Tues.- Fri.

9:30-9:40am in the Sanctuary

Holy Hour: Thursdays at 12noon

MASS INTENTIONS



Second Sunday of Advent

MONDAY, December 9

9:00 For the intentions of Katey Johnson and her family (Living)

TUESDAY, December 10

9:00 For the intentions of Daniel Besaw and family (Living)

WEDNESDAY, December 11

9:00 Frank and Angie Scalzo, requested by Andrea Pizzuti

THURSDAY, December 12

9:00 For Divine Peace, Divine Love & Divine Will on Earth, requested by Judith Stafford & David Woolley

FRIDAY, December 13

9:00 Terry & Bill Roderick, requested by Tom and Pat Heavren

SATURDAY, December 14

4:00 Rev. Thomas P. Quinn, requested by Sandra Bondhus

SUNDAY, December 15

7:30 Phyllis Peck, requested by Lien Thai
9:30 Terry Tromza, requested by Mary Jane Jeter
11:00 Anna ZuWallack, requested by the ZuWallack Family

WELCOME!



If you are a resident in this area, we hope that you will continue to grace us with your presence and register with our office manager. You may call 860-673-9858 or stop by the parish office to register. If you are a visitor, we thank you for participating in worshiping with us and we hope to see you again.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANN'S

MONDAY, December 9

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 9:30-10:30am in the church
MMP Cenacle-Rosary Prayer Group: 7:15pm in the church .

All are welcome! (Enter through door on the left side of the church)

The Catholic Worldview Lecture: 7pm in Fr. Bennett Hall
Unpacking the Advent Scriptures: 7:15pm in Rm. 3

TUESDAY, December 10

Unpacking the Advent Scriptures: 9:30am in Room 3
RCIA: 7pm in Room 3
Social Justice Committee Meeting: 7pm in Room 2

WEDNESDAY, December 11

Revelation Bible Study (full): 9:30am in Rooms 2 & 3

THURSDAY, December 12

Holy Hour: 12 noon in the church
Traditional Choir: 2pm in the Choir Loft
Folk/Contemporary Choir: 7:30pm in the Choir Loft

FRIDAY, December 13

SATURDAY, December 14

Men's Breakfast Group: 8am in Room 3

SUNDAY, December 15

Unpacking the Advent Scriptures: 10:30am in Rm. 3
Cookies with St. Nicholas: after 11am Mass in Fr. Bennett Hall

Cookies with Saint Nicholas

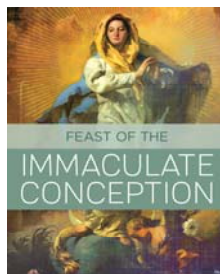
Fr. Bennett Hall
Sunday, December 15th
Immediately after the 11am Mass until 1pm



What a better way to get into the Christmas spirit than to meet and hear the Story of Saint Nicholas, sing Christmas Carols and enjoy delicious Christmas Cookies!

All Families are welcome to join us !

NEW THIS YEAR!



Since the Feast of the Immaculate Conception falls on a Sunday this year it is not a Holy Day of Obligation. The Feast will be celebrated the next day, Monday, December 9th at the 9am Mass.

CHRISTMAS SINGING

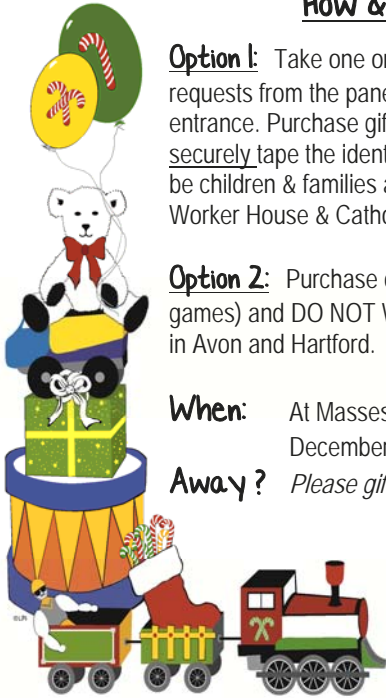


The combined choirs are beginning to rehearse for the beautiful Christmas liturgies and we want YOU to join us! Please consider offering your musical gifts and voice to your parish for this festive occasion! Extra help is available for those who want it! Please call Tom Stockton at 673-9858 ext. 230. Children grades 5 and up will also be beginning for the special Christmas Eve Mass!

Annual Toy/Gift Collection

Next Weekend - December 14/15

How & For Whom:



Option 1: Take one or more paper Christmas gift requests from the panel in the Gathering Space or side entrance. Purchase gift, wrap in Christmas paper and securely tape the identifying tag to the gift. Recipients will be children & families at Family Life Education, Catholic Worker House & Catholic Charities Refugee Families.

Option 2: Purchase one or more gifts (please, no war games) and **DO NOT WRAP**. Recipients will be children in Avon and Hartford.

When: At Masses on the weekend of December 14-15, 2019

Away? Please gifts in Fr. Bennett Hall

God Bless You For Your
Generosity

Sponsored by the Social
Justice Committee

The Men of the Church of Saint Ann are Invited to the

Annual Men's Retreat

January 17 - 19, 2020

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center * West Hartford

Join Us for a focus on

"Our Deepest Longing"

We spend our time and energy on the necessities of everyday life, which hold so many things that are beyond our control. But what is it that we are longing for in the deepest way? We will explore that deep longing planted inside us by God – a longing for peace, for wholeness, and for relationships that bring us joy and lift us up.

Our Retreat begins with dinner Friday night at 6pm and concludes with Brunch at 11:00am on Sunday

For more information go to the Holy Family Retreat Center website: <https://www.holyfamilyretreat.org>

Call or Email your St. Ann Representatives:

Paul Watson 860-922-0812 (Pgwatson33@gmail.com)

Bob Yurch 860-675-1366 (byurch@fiainc.com)

(Women's Retreat Information on "Bulletin Board" page)



YOUTH MINISTRY POINSETTIA SALE

December 7/8 and 14/15

Poinsettia sale time is here again! Please help us decorate our beautiful church for Christmas by purchasing a poinsettia in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. Plants are \$10 each and will be used to decorate the church. They will be sold in the Gathering Space after Masses the weekends of: Dec. 7/8 & 14/15

WE HAVE OPLATEK

We will also be selling Oplatek Polish Christmas wafers, during the plant sale.



Advent Reconciliation

Monday, December 16th

Confirmation Students: 6pm

Parish: 7pm

Give yourself the gift of forgiveness and peace as you prepare your heart to welcome Jesus at Christmas.

Gifts for those in Convalescent Homes

Ladies/Gentlemen: Small blankets, combs, nail clippers, picture frames, sweat pants & tops, eyeglass holders, sweaters (prefer button front style), writing paper, envelopes & stamps, large faced watches & clocks, slippers, socks, bathrobes, PJs, hats, bird feeders that attach to windows, large-face playing cards, wall decorations, wicker baskets for odds and ends, and artificial flower/plant arrangements

Ladies: Costume jewelry, pins, necklaces earrings, hair picks, perfume, powder, cosmetic bags, emery boards, nail polish, nightgowns, knee-highs, bed jackets & easy to open pocketbooks

Gentlemen: Flannel shirts, after-shave lotion.

Please mark each package for size, ladies or men. Please place in marked box in the Gathering Space now through Dec. 22nd



WEEKLY ORDINARY INCOME

November 24, 2019: \$6,388.04

December 1, 2019: \$6,762.00

Next weekend's 2nd collection: Monthly

Collection for the Homeless

Thanks to everyone who has asked about ImmaCare and to those of you who have worried about and prayed for the men who used to stay there. The good news is the renovation is going smoothly and hopefully by Spring the shelter will be a safer, more efficient place while still maintaining the welcoming spirit. For many people this winter has been a difficult one with rain and freezing temperatures. Other shelter spaces have been limited and we are told that emergency rooms are often filled with people who have no where else to stay. We will again be collecting warm socks, hats, gloves, toiletries, and chapsticks to put together



Christmas giftbags for the people who are helped through the ImmaCare outreach program, many of whom sleep outdoors until the weather is life-threatening. We will also distribute to people living in supportive housing, and to a women's shelter. Please leave any donations in ImmaCare marked boxes in Fr. Bennett Hall **prior to December 16th**. More than ever we are hoping to put together lots of bags and are praying that lots of individuals and groups will make this possible.

Any questions please email kfinocchio@gmail.com

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

2019 Advent Enrichment

Weekly Small-Group Gatherings

"Unpacking the Advent Scriptures"

+ **Gather with friends** weekly, at home or at church
 + **Explore the rich connections** between the Sunday readings for Advent and your everyday life

Church-based Small Groups meet in Room 3

- Sundays, 10:30am
- Mondays, 7:15pm
- Tuesdays, 9:30am

Home-based Small Groups meet at your convenience. Materials provided.

SIGN UP With Ann DiStefano (see bulletin cover)

Presentation: "Do You See What I See? The Catholic Worldview"

Monday, Dec 9, 7pm, Fr. Bennett Hall.

Childcare provided

see announcement in column to the left

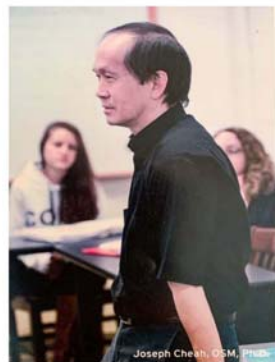
Parents: Tired of Small Talk? Try ALPHA!

December 8th and 15th at Avon Middle School
 (while children are in class, both AM & PM sessions)

Childcare provided at morning session



*To register for childcare, contact Paula Love by the Thursday prior to the session: uconnloves@att.net; 860-690-8346.



All are invited to an
Advent Lecture

(Teens included!)

Presented by our very own
 Rev. Joseph Cheah, OSM, Ph.D.

"The Catholic Worldview"

Monday, December 9, 2019
 7:00pm - 9:00pm
 Fr. Bennett Hall

* Childcare Provided

This informal lecture will focus on the Catholic worldview that creates the Catholic mind and the Catholic heart. Fr. Joe will discuss the underlying ethos, imagination, paradigm, a set of lenses by which Catholics view the world. He will clarify the essential differences between Catholic and Protestant principles.

Fr. Joe has given this talk at academic conferences and at parishes across the country.

* Please RSVP to ann.distefano@stannavon.com and indicate whether you need childcare

**Part Time Job Opening at St. Ann:
 Dir. of Communications**

Sadly, Meredith Springer is stepping down as our communications director, due to other work obligations. We will miss her and wish her well. We are seeking a part-time Director of Communications with strong digital media skills. The position features flexible hours and the ability to work remotely.

Please send any inquiries/leads ASAP to ann.distefano@stannavon.com, 860-673-9858, x228

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

Jesus Is Headed Your Way

One day, we heard the news that a possible tornado was heading our way. We live off of a highway, and it was traveling along that very road. My wife and kids huddled in the downstairs bathroom. Not many tornadoes surface in North Carolina, so our children were particularly worried because it was something they had never contemplated happening before. The tornado never did come into our neighborhood, but it did cause one our sons to express that he needed to go to Confession as soon as possible. He hadn't done anything too over the top sinful, but coming face-to-face with a tornado had cause him to have some second thoughts about his preparedness for meeting God. Hopefully, a tornado doesn't make a path through your city or town this Advent.

Sometimes, reminders of our mortality find their way into life. The passing of a loved one, a car accident, or a health scare can all cause us to reflect on where we are in our relationship with God. Without those moments, we can find ourselves living daily without a mindfulness of where God is in our life and if our actions are pleasing to Him ... or if they drag us further away into the world.

Advent is the time to take inventory of where we are with God. How are we living as good stewards and mature disciples? What do I need to make amends for in the healing power of the sacrament of Penance? A tornado may not be coming, but Jesus will be returning someday. Hopefully, you will run outside of your home to meet him, and he won't find you huddled up afraid in your bathroom.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MT

QUOTES

Words to Inspire the Faithful

*I am not afraid.
I was born to do this.*

-St. Joan of Arc

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. (Is 11:3b-4a)

Psalm:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever. (Ps 72)

Second Reading:

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Rom 15:7)

Gospel:

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Mt 3:1-2)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
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WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of December 8, 2019

- Sunday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf. 7]/Rom 15:4-9/ Mt 3:1-12
- Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/ Lk 1:26-38
- Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/ Lk 1:5-25
- Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/ Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/ Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 [Is 35:4]/Jas 5:7-10/ Mt 11:2-11

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

What does it mean to be worthy? There are a few different ways to approach this question. Today's Gospel highlights two: the way of the Pharisees and the way of John the Baptist. Our faith values good works and discipleship. Perhaps, then, we "earn" our worth by adhering to the right doctrines and following the right pious practice. The Pharisees thought they were worthy. Due to their religious pedigree and proper procedures, they were self-satisfied. John the Baptist's words to them are strong. "Do not resume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'" Of course, Jesus (and John) don't omit the responsibility for moral behavior. John gives the Pharisees quite a strong warning in that regard. "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance ... every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

It's a question of attitude. Of disposition. It's a matter of the heart. If anyone would be worthy in this scenario, it's John the Baptist. Jesus himself will name him the greatest of prophets and a great man. John, however, recognizes his own lowly place in the grand scheme of things. "The one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals." The Pharisees take pride in being "better" than others. John embraces humility in Christ being "better" than him. We don't self-generate our own worthiness. We receive it as a gift from God.

In a few short weeks, we'll celebrate the birth of Christ. Bishop Ven. Fulton Sheen wrote about the Nativity in his "Life of Christ": "Because [Jesus] was born in a cave, all who wish to see Him must stoop. To stoop is the mark of humility. The proud refuse to stoop and, therefore, they miss divinity." God invites us to prepare our hearts this Advent. When you consider your own life, where are you looking for your worth? This Christmas, are you prepared to stoop?

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INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Live the Liturgy

World, church, and local events continue to challenge our faith. This is all the more reason to continue to come together and find encouragement and hope in God's word, sacraments, and our faith community. We are people of hope who are called to persevere, even in the midst of confusion and darkness, as we wait for what is to come. We are asked to repent, especially from our tendency to fall into doubt and despair. We are asked to repent and place our trust in Isaiah's words that God's world of innocence will be restored. We need to hear John the Baptist's words today more than ever: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" Rather than being disappointed by what human beings and world cannot give, let us commit anew to what God can and will provide.

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THE BULLETIN BOARD

Gingerbread Holiday Fair

St. Patrick's Church - Collinsville

Saturday, December 7th: 10am to 7pm

Sunday, December 8th: 8am - 12 noon

Unique Hand-crafted Items
Gift Baskets and Bake Sale
Teacup Auction and more!



"Gingerbread Cafe"

Relax and enjoy items from our lite menu!
Beverages, Wassail and Dessert!
HOMEMADE Gingerbread with REAL Whipped Cream!

Northwest Catholic \$10K Raffle!

Tickets will be available for purchase after all the Masses during the weekend of December 7 & 8, 2019 for Northwest Catholic High School's \$10K Raffle fundraiser, to benefit the Northwest Catholic Fund. Tickets are \$20 each and only 3,000 tickets are available for sale. The grand prize is \$10,000, with a second prize of \$2,500 and a third prize of \$1,000. The drawing will be held on Thurs., Dec. 19, 2019 at 9:00 pm during the finale of NWC's Christmas Concert. Ticket holders do not need to be present to win.

Visit www.NorthwestCatholic.org/Raffle for more information.

Thank you for your continued support of Northwest Catholic High School and our students!

The Women of the Church of St. Ann
are invited to the

Annual Women's Retreat

January 10 - 12, 2020

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center * W. Hartford

Join Us for a focus on

"Our Deepest Longing"

We will explore that deep longing planted in our hearts by God – a longing for peace, for wholeness, and for relationships that give us joy and lift us up. Come away and rest awhile to find and pursue your deepest longing, and by doing so, may you experience how God is longing so deeply for you too.

Our Retreat begins with dinner Friday night at 6pm and concludes with Brunch at 11:00am on Sunday

For more information go to the Holy Family Retreat Center website: <https://www.holyfamilyretreat.org>

Call or Email your St. Ann Representatives:

Nancy Janiszewski at 860-818-9260

Eileen DiMauro at 860-930-3046.

Additional retreat dates are: January 24-26;

February 28-March 1; April 17-19; June 5-7.

New Retreatants: we'd be happy to give you a tour of Holy Family, get you settled into your room, and meet you for dinner. Just let us know that you have registered.

"The ABCs of Annulment"

Sponsored by the Metropolitan Tribunal, Bloomfield

The Rev. Daniel Keefe, pastor of St John Bosco Parish at 731 Main St, Branford, in collaboration with V. Rev. George Mukuka, the Judicial Vicar from the Metropolitan Tribunal in Bloomfield, will host "The ABCs of Annulment" on Friday of January 10 from 7-9 PM in the St Mary's Church Hall. An updating of the process initiated by Pope Francis as well as updates made in the Archdiocese of Hartford will be discussed by Br. Larry Lussier CSC, Deacon George Frederick and Jim Tottenham who make up the Annulment Team. Team members also include two Spanish speaking members - Lisandra Martinez and Marian Guzman. They will help participants in writing their application in the follow-up workshop on Fridays - January 17, 24 from 7-9 P.M., also in the church hall.

The "ABCs of Annulment" event is open to all.
Participants will receive a folder with the required printed materials.

No registration is required. For further information call
Br. Larry @ 475-221-8464 or email him at larlus300@sbcglobal.net.

Grotto Gift Shop Stocked up for the Advent/Christmas Season!

The Grotto Gift Shop at the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield, Rte. 118, Litchfield has stocked up for the Advent and Christmas season. Available are rosaries, medals, unique jewelry and Christmas cards. And there is a large selection of Fontanini creches and Willow Tree items. The shop is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10:30-4:00 and Sunday, 11:30-4:00. On Monday, December 23rd, the shop will be open from 10:30am-4:00pm. For further information, call 860-567-0891 or email: lourdesshrinect@gmail.com.